

USA National Certification Program for Officials

The mission, from the USA Swimming web site is:

"To develop officials who are competent, current and consistent from the LSC level meet to the highest level in our sport through a progressive training program based on an accumulation of experience acquired by specific meet attendance, mentoring and constructive evaluation."

Definitions from the "National Officials Certification Summary"

N2: The first National level for a position - recognizes that an official is experienced and has been evaluated as capable of working the position at Sectional, Zone, Grand Prix and similar higher profile meets.

N3: The second National level for a position - recognizes that an official has the experience, skills and knowledge to be considered for selection to work National Championship level meets in the position.

So what does National Certification mean and what is the process?

National Certification has three levels; N1, N2 and N3.

N1 Certification

N1 is administered by Illinois Swimming. To achieve a N1 certification, you must take the officials training class, be evaluated on deck for several sessions and pass the USA Swimming examination for each certification. If you are currently an official in Illinois, you have attained the N1 certification. In Illinois, there are four N1 certifications; Stroke and Turn, Admin Judge, Starter and Referee. A N1 certification is the minimum required to officiate at any LSC and many higher level meets.

Information and prerequisite for achieving the N1 certification can be found on the [Illinois Swimming web site](#) in the Certification Information section.

N2 Certification

N2 is administered by USA Swimming. The goal of the N2 certification is to groom officials for participation at championship meets within the LSC and at higher levels. While a N2 certification is not required for many meets, it does let the Meet Referee know that you have taken the time to meet the requirements and be evaluated on deck. There are five available certifications at the N2 level; Stroke and Turn, Chief Judge, Starter, Deck Referee and Administrative Referee. The N2 certification has several requirements and prerequisites which can be found at on the USA Swimming Website.

- ▼ Officials
 - ▶ Officials Tracking System
 - ▼ Testing & Certification
 - Online Officials Test
 - National Certification***
 - ▶ Education & Training

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

There are two levels of National Certification – N2 and N3 – for each of 5 positions:

- Stroke and Turn Judge
- Chief Judge,
- Starter,
- Deck Referee
- Administrative Referee

[National Official Certification Summary](#) 

[National Official Re-Certification Summary](#) 

[National Certification Reinstatement](#) 

[Evaluation Procedure and Guidelines](#) 

The N2 and N3 advancement process and prerequisites are all managed through the Official Tracking System. Once you have completed the prerequisites for the N2 certification of your choice, you will need to be evaluated on deck by a National Evaluator at an Official Qualifying Meet. The evaluation process begins by applying for an Officials Qualifying Meet and requesting an evaluation. While many OQM's do not require preregistration, it is best apply early to ensure that the meet can accommodate your request for evaluation. In Illinois, the Official Qualifying Meets are typically the Short Course and Long Course Age Group Championship Meets and the Senior Championship Meets.

Other Official Qualifying meets can be found on the USA Swimming web site.

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 - Meets and Evaluations***
 - Activities

During your evaluation, your evaluator will discuss opportunities for improvement with you and expects to see these improvements implemented during the evaluation. Once your evaluation is complete, the evaluator will enter the results into the Official Tracking System. You will receive an e-mail from OTS

when the evaluation is submitted. If you have received a favorable evaluation, you then need to submit a completed application for advancement using OTS. This can be found on the USA Swimming web site.

- ▼ **Officials Tracking System**
 - Meets and Evaluations
 - Activities
 - National Certification Application***

MONITOR MY PARTICIPATION HISTORY AND SUBMIT A NATIONAL CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Click the link below to review your Meet, Evaluation, and Activity history

[*View My History*](#)

Click the link below to submit a new Application for Officials National Certification

[*Submit a New Application*](#)

Once you have met all the prerequisites and the application has been submitted, you will receive an e-mail stating you have been approved. Once approved, you can print your USA Swimming Certification Card. This can be found on the USA Swimming web site.

- ▼ **Officials Tracking System**
 - Meets and Evaluations
 - Activities
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 - View My History**
 - My Certification Card***

N3 Certification

N3 is also administered by USA Swimming. The goal of the N3 certification is to groom officials for National Level championship meets. N3 certification follows a similar process with prerequisite and one or two evaluations. N3 certifications information is contained in the documents listed above.